

Nixon Says Kennedy Imperiled Security

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WASHINGTON, March 19--

Richard M. Nixon has charged in a new book that President Kennedy endangered security restrictions in 1960 with his campaign call for intervention in Cuba.

Mr. Nixon, who was then the Vice President and the Republican candidate for President, wrote that Mr. Kennedy had been given a secret intelligence briefing in which he was told that the Eisenhower Administration was training Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba.

The briefing was given Mr. Kennedy by Allen Dulles, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Nixon said. It came before Mr. Kennedy declared on Oct. 20:

"We must attempt to strengthen the non-Batista democratic anti-Castro forces in

exile and in Cuba itself, who offer eventual hope of overthrowing Castro. Thus far, these fighters for freedom have had virtually no support from our government."

The charge is contained in "Six Crises," a book by Mr. Nixon to be published by Doubleday & Co. of New York on March 29. Excerpts from the book are appearing in Life magazine before its publication, and copies of the book are now on sale in many bookstores.

"Kennedy was not public advocating what was already the policy of the American government -- covertly -- and Kennedy had been so informed," Mr. Nixon wrote.

In addition, he said in a long chapter devoted to the 1960 campaign, "Kennedy was endangering the security of the whole operation by his public statement."

Mr. Nixon, now a Republican candidate for Governor of California, added:

"For the first and only time in the campaign, I got mad at Kennedy -- personally."

Took Opposite Side

Despite that, he wrote, "The was only one thing I could do. The covert operation had to be protected at all costs. I must not even suggest by implication that the United States was rendering aid to rebel forces in and out of Cuba. In fact, I must go to the other extreme: I must attack the Kennedy proposal to provide such aid as wrong and irresponsible because it would violate our treaty commitments."

This Mr. Nixon proceeded to do in his fourth television debate with Mr. Kennedy, despite the fact that, according to his book,

"The covert training of Cuban exiles as well as the new overt quarantine on policy were programs due, in substantial part at least, to my efforts."

In the television debate, Mr. Nixon called Mr. Kennedy's proposals of intervention "the most dangerously irresponsible recommendations that he's made during the course of the campaign," and added that if they were to be followed:

"We would lose all of our friends in Latin America, we would probably be condemned in the United Nations and we would not accomplish our objective . . . It would be an open invitation for Mr. Khrushchev . . . to come into Latin America and to engage us in what would be a civil war and possibly even worse than that."

Mr. Nixon described the political effect of this stand as follows:

"I was in the ironic position of appearing to be 'sober' on Castro than Kennedy -- which was exactly the opposite of the truth, if only the whole record could be disclosed."

Ironically, too, Mr. Nixon said

it was the "one and only time arming Cuban refugees was started by the C. I. A." This account is one of the highlights of "Six Crises," which also includes detailed accounts of the Alger Hiss case, the political fund incident that endangered Mr. Nixon's Vice-Presidential candidacy in 1952, his trips to South America and to the Soviet Union, and the problems presented to him by former President Eisenhower's several major illnesses.

He also contended that his response caused Mr. Kennedy to soften his stand to one of simply letting "the forces of freedom in Cuba know that we are on their side."

Six months later, however, Mr. Kennedy, by then President of the United States, ordered the Cuban invasion that Mr. Eisenhower had prepared.

No air cover was provided, however, and the invasion was repulsed in one of the worst defeats for an American policy in years. Mr. Kennedy took the blame for this.

Mr. Nixon wrote that after meeting Fidel Castro in Washington in April, 1959, he had started advocating strong measures against him because he was "either incredibly naive about communism or under Communist discipline."

By early 1960, "the position I had been advocating for nine months prevailed," he said, and

the program of training and war in the Formosa Strait.